Claims

[c1] A Method of securely binding a digital representation of biometric data to a digital certificate in such a manner as to facilitate the positive identification of the party to whom the digital certificate was issued.

[c2] A Method of validating the authenticity of certificate bound biometric data at the time of performing other certificate validation processes.

[c3] The method of claim 1, wherein a digital certificate is issued to a person, entity, or device.

[c4] The method of claim 1, wherein biometric data of the requester is submitted to the certificate authority in such a manner as to positively associate the biometric data with a matching certificate request.

[c5] The method of claim 4, wherein the biometric data submitted may be any form or combination of digital data which represents a biological characteristic or combination of biological characteristics of such capacity as to uniquely identify a physical person. Such data may contain but is not limited to such elements as: a photograph, a set of fingerprints, a voice pattern, a retinal scan, or a DNA sequence. Such data specifically does not contain such generic elements as hair color, eye color, body weight, race, gender, name, and address.

[c6] The method of claim 1, wherein the biometric data submitted in claim 4 is embedded into a certificate prior to the signing of the certificate by a certificate authority.

[c7] The method of claim 6, wherein the certificate created and signed by the CA is a digital certificate as defined by any standard.

[c8] The method of claim 6, wherein the certificate created and signed by the CA contains biometric data that may be extracted and validated by applications specifically designed to do so.

[c9] The method of claim 6, wherein the biometric data embedded into the certificate created and signed by the CA does not cause the format of the

certificate to deviate from the standard by which the certificate was defined, and does not render the certificate in any way invalid or unusable by any application which may use the certificate as input and which fully supports the standard by which the certificate was defined.

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